Elimination of Child/Bonded Labour in NER

†520. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken by Government to eliminate the child labour and bonded labour in NER, particularly in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are still child labourers and bonded labourers in some parts of NER; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to identify and rehabilitate them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Government of India has been implementing the Scheme of Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations for the rehabilitation of working children. As on date, 25 centres are being run for the benefit of 1250 child labour through 11 NGOs in the NER. The Government is implementing the National Child Labour Projects for elimination of Child Labour in the Country. Bonded Labour System has been abolished by law through out the country with effect from 25.10.1975 under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. Except the Government of Arunachal Pradesh, incidence of bonded labour has not been reported by any State Governments in North Eastern region including the State of Assam. The Act is being implemented by the State Governments through Vigilance Committees constituted at district and sub-divisional levels in the State.

(c) As per the 1991 Census, the number of working children in the North Eastern Region States is as follows:

State	No. of Child Labour
Assam	327,598
Manipur	16,493
Meghalaya	34,633
Nagaland	16,476
Tripura	16,478
Arunachal Pradesh	12,395
Mizoram	16,411

As many as 3526 bonded labourers were identified in the State of Arunachal Pradesh through a survey conducted by the State Government in 1996.

(d) The Government of India has been implementing the Scheme of Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations for the rehabilitation of working children. Under the scheme Non-formal/formal education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend, health care etc. are being provided to the children withdrawn from work.

Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for rehabilitation of Bonded Labour, central grants had been released for all those identified bonded labourers who are available for rehabilitation. Further an amount of Rs. 8 lakhs has been released to the Government of Arunachal Pradesh for conducting survey of bonded labour during 2002-2003.

Educated/uneducated unemployed youth

521. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of educated and uneducated unemployed youth as on the 30th june, 2003 in the Country, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the number of unemployed youth in the Country is increasing year after year and the employment opportunities are decreasing consistently; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government have formulated any concrete scheme to provide employment to unemployed youth during the Tenth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) State-wise, number of educated and uneducated jobseekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the live register of employment exchanges in the